

thick as syrup. It was not fare for the calorie-conscious. But there weren't many of those to be seen, anyway; the dancers were off warming up for the performance that was to follow.

Filing into the East Room after dinner, we found ourselves chatting with Andrew Card, Bush's chief of staff, who seemed eager to show his own artsy side.

"I hit a crossroads when I was a senior in high school," Card said, describing a choice he faced between accepting a scholarship to the Hartt School of Music (on the strength of his trumpet playing) in West Hartford, Conn., or a Navy ROTC scholarship at the University of South Carolina.

Guess which one he chose.

Still, he said, "I believe in the arts very strongly. Every once in a while I get the trumpet out. Of course, my wife wants me to play it in the closet."

It being Monday night, and close to 9 by this time—fans of Fox's "24" know how sacrosanct that hour is—we pressed Card on another issue: Did he ever tune in to the Kiefer Sutherland thriller, which recently revealed that the chief of staff of the show's president is a murderous villain of presidency-destroying dimension?

Card's eyebrows shot up merrily. "I hear the chief of staff is kind of a bad guy. Didn't he drug the first lady?" Yep, and Card's TV counterpart also conspired to engineer a nerve gas leak to incriminate a terrorist organization to prove it had weapons of mass destruction.

Card backed up in mock horror. "I'm not him," he said emphatically, eyes wide, waving his arms in front of himself to ward off any notion of a link to reality. "I didn't do that." And then he was gone, spurred by a desperate need to catch up with his wife.

Addressing the audience, Mitchell pointed out his company's oft-reported origins, that it was the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 that inspired him to found a classical ballet company of African American dancers—which is, all these years later, still a unique institution.

Left unsaid was what it would mean for black ballet dancers if such a company could not survive. In fact, none of the speeches mentioned Dance Theatre of Harlem's having come so close to financial ruin, or the fact that its laid-off dancers' unemployment claims ran out long ago.

Bush, seated with his wife in the front row and within a few feet of the small stage, smiled throughout the show, which included children as well as professionals. Hands clasped in his lap, he kept up a steady piston action with one knee—an intriguing tic, yet what did it mean? Restlessness? Excitement? A dream of mashing the pedals on a mountain bike?

Harolyn Blackwell, Audra McDonald and LeAnn Rimes each sang solos as well as songs that accompanied more dancing. It was all very classy, very polite, if somewhat restrained.

Enter Al Green, the great uncorker, who got throats to open and hands to clap—some on the beat, quite a few off—and got the president to join in the dance.

"The whole evening was so relaxed," Mitchell enthused afterward. "That was a major miracle."

Speaking of miracles, Mitchell stated his favored outcome: "I hope this opens the door, that dance becomes a line item in the federal budget so we can take the arts all across America."

A different miracle may be a bit closer to actually coming to pass. When she became board chairman and vowed to get the troupe back on its feet, Reynolds told *The Washington Post* that "failure is not an option." So how close to success—and public performances—is the company now?

"We're close," she said. "We'll probably be making an announcement in the summer."

HONORING WILLIAM AND DOROTHY ZEHNDER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on February 17, the Saginaw County Convention and Visitors Bureau will present its Pinnacle Award to William "Tiny" and Dorothy Zehnder for their remarkable contributions to the convention and tourist industry in Saginaw County. The Zehnder family has had a positive impact on Frankenmuth, Michigan, and changed the area forever. Theirs is one of the great American success stories, replete with foresight, courage, and hard work.

In 1950, the Zehnder family purchased the Fischer Hotel, and William Zehnder became the manager. Dorothy Zehnder became the kitchen manager, a role she continues today. At that time, the Zehnder family had 21 years of experience running their own restaurant across the street from the Fischer Hotel. After a series of improvements to the Fischer Hotel culminating in a major renovation in the late 1950s, the Fischer Hotel was renamed the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn. The décor and architecture of the Bavarian Inn started the transformation of Frankenmuth into "Michigan's Little Bavaria." The weeklong opening celebration held in 1959 proved to be very popular and has turned into the annual Frankenmuth Bavarian Festival. The addition of the Glockenspiel and Wooden Bridge has enhanced the character of Frankenmuth's downtown area.

Dorothy developed most of the recipes served in the restaurant. The restaurant can accommodate 1200 diners at one time, and annually over 750,000 pounds of chicken is served to its guests. Dorothy plays a vital role in ensuring the food is prepared correctly and served promptly. Many local Frankenmuth leaders started their work life in the Bavarian Inn kitchen under Dorothy's tutelage. Today the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn is one of the top ten family-owned restaurants in America.

In addition to the restaurant, their holdings include Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth River Place, Castle Shops, Freeway Fritz, Frankenmuth Motel, and several gift shops on Main Street. The Zehnders employ over 1,000 people and serve one million visitors each year making Frankenmuth a top tourist destination.

Tiny Zehnder's vision for the Frankenmuth community has made it a great place for families to gather, live, and work. The Zehnders buy locally and utilize Michigan commodities. They are always looking for ways to improve their business and their community. They have passed on their skills and work ethic to their children. The Bavarian Inn enterprise is a multi-generational operation with their children and grandchildren managing and working in various capacities. Tiny and Dorothy Zehnder are an inspiration to everyone and excellent role models for our youth. I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the outstanding success of the Zehnders and congratulate them as they are honored by the Saginaw community.

HONORING MR. ROCKY SANTILLI FOR HIS CROWNING AS 2006 KING OF BASEBALLTOWN

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rocky Santilli of Leesport Township in Berks County, Pennsylvania, for his 2,000+ career wins as a fast-pitch softball manager, and his naming as the 2006 King of Baseballtown.

Mr. Santilli started his managerial career in 1959 with the Leesport-based Rising Sun Sunners, and has since amassed over 2,000 victories along with dozens of trophies and honors. With Santilli at the helm, the Sunners captured three Amateur Softball Association (ASA) national titles, a number of gold medals at the Olympic Festival, and a share of the International Softball Federation (ISF) Men's World Fast Pitch Championship.

Due to his impressive record with the Sunners, Mr. Santilli was honored with the opportunity to pilot the United States softball team four times at the Pan Am games. The U.S. brought home silver medals in all four games, finishing just behind Canada.

In 1991, Rocky Santilli was inducted into the ISF Hall of Fame on behalf of his remarkable career. Two years later he was enshrined in the ASA National Hall of Honor and the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. In 1998 Mr. Santilli returned to coaching and led the Schuylkill Valley High School girls' softball squad to a 64–67 record over 7 years. In 2004, Rocky Santilli retired as a legend.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of meeting Rocky several years ago through Sheriff John H. Kramer, and it is an honor today to recognize such a talented and accomplished man who has brought pride and inspiration to the people of my district. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Rocky Santilli on his 2006 King of Baseballtown award, recognizing his remarkable career in softball, and thanking him for the many contributions he has made toward the well-being of the citizens of Pennsylvania.

IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGE SMALL'S SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of a great American, George Small. I honor him today for his service to our great Nation in the United States Army during World War II.

Mr. Small entered active duty from the Army Reserves as a 2nd Lieutenant on April 25, 1941. After receiving training at the Army's Chemical Warfare School, he became Base Chemical Officer in Albuquerque, New Mexico. From Albuquerque, Mr. Small was transferred to Clark Airbase until he was ordered to Bataan in the Philippines on December 24, 1941.

Mr. Small was assigned to the 31st Infantry until the surrender of Bataan on April 9, 1942.

Prior to the 31st Infantry's surrender, Mr. Small was suffering from malaria and malnutrition caused by the malaria. He was released just 3 days before he began what would become known to history as the Bataan Death March. Although weak, Mr. Small survived the death march and the 17-day journey in the infamous "Hell Ships" to Japan.

While being held by the Japanese, Mr. Small's weight declined to approximately 98 pounds. He was held as a Japanese Prisoner of War for 3 years and 5 months until his liberation on September 10, 1945.

Mr. Small was awarded the American Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star, an American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars, the Distinguished Unit Badge with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star, the World War II Victory Medal, and the POW Medal for his meritorious service.

Mr. Small was discharged from the Army on November 26, 1946 and decided to stay in the Army Reserves until his retirement as a Major on March 1, 1968. Mr. Small will celebrate his 98th birthday on February 24, 2006. Mr. Small's will to survive and dedication to the United States Army is a testament to his character, and it is an honor to recognize him today.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that I salute a great American hero, George Small, for his service and dedication to our great Nation.

SHORTCHANGING OUR TROOPS: RUMSFELD SPENDS BILLIONS TO FIGHT FICTIVE SUPERPOWERS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce into the RECORD the editorial entitled "Still Shortchanging the Troops" which appeared on February 10, 2006, in the New York Times. The military industrial complex is in your face America, front and center, rewarding corporate America, contractors and Halliburton, but shortchanging the troops.

The New York Times in its lead editorial on February 10, 2006, made a scathing criticism of Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's recently revealed Defense Department budget. As the Times put it: "It's amazing how Donald Rumsfeld's Defense Spending plan can produce a \$439 billion and still skimp on the one thing the American Military desperately needs: expanded ground forces so the weakened and cannibalized Army" can meet the needs of Iraq without hurting its ability to respond to other threats.

I do not believe more ground troops are needed in Iraq. I think this editorial is referencing the fact that the troops fighting in Iraq are returning two, three and four times and have borne more than their fair share of President Bush's Iraq war. I support Congressman MURTHA's position that our ground troops in Iraq have become the targets in Iraq; the one unifying idea for all the splintered factions fighting a civil war there is that Americans must get out of their country. However, there is much I do agree with in the editorial.

I agree that it is a disgrace to spend only a small part of its 7 percent budget increase for increase of pay and recruitment bonuses while a "large chunk of this nearly \$30 billion goes to more new weapons and postponing overdue cuts in wasteful Air Force and Navy projects unrelated to fighting terrorism. This highlights as nothing else can the disconnect with what Secretary Rumsfeld says he cares about and what he really cares about.

When the Secretary of Defense is at a press conference or a briefing, he consistently talks about this war and the brave men and women sacrificing in Iraq to keep us safe. He and President Bush have repeatedly expressed the view that we are fighting the terrorists "over there, so we don't have to fight them over here." Support the troops has become the rallying call for those who blindly accept platitudes in place of plans and rhetoric instead of substantive answers to the many legitimate questions being asked by millions of U.S. citizens. Secretary Rumsfeld misses no opportunity to label Americans who do not give unquestioning support to the President's war as unpatriotic and worse giving support to terrorists and harming our troops in Iraq.

It is quite obvious to me that neither President Bush nor Secretary Rumsfeld support our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. The President precipitously sent our troops into battle on false information and with no plan for the peace. Iraq has become a haven for terrorists and is currently in a civil war in which our troops are caught with nowhere to go. Secretary Rumsfeld sent them into combat without the necessary armored trucks and tanks and without the necessary body armor. Even from the beginning of the war, there were stories about parents having to buy their sons and daughters armor and of parents collecting used bullet proof vests from policemen. Even after Rumsfeld was asked when he would get his armor, Rumsfeld had nothing but the most unsettling reply. You go to war with the Army you have, not the Army you wish you had. No, Secretary Rumsfeld, you go to war with a properly equipped army and an exit plan to get the troops out of harm's way when the mission is accomplished.

Even after this incident, when Secretary Rumsfeld was questioned by Members of Congress about the lack of proper armor, the troops did not receive what they needed. A recently released report from the Navy and Military pathologist showed that 80 percent of deaths from torso injuries could have been prevented if the troops had had the proper body armor. The Navy had ordered the armor. As of January 7, the Army had not. This indicates a neglect of the troops, not support for the troops.

I am also glad that the Times repeats a truth well worth repeating and one I hope the country will finally understand and will not only demand Secretary Rumsfeld's resignation but hold him responsible for the many unnecessary deaths in Iraq caused by his refusal to listen to his own senior generals.

According to the Times and according to my belief and that of many of my Democratic colleagues: "The prospects of Iraq might have been very different today if Mr. Rumsfeld had listened to some of his own senior generals and occupation officials and authorized significantly larger ground forces from the beginning. The early looting might have been contained before it shattered political confidence and

vital infrastructure. The insurgency might never have gotten such a head start. . . . But the obstinate ideologues in Mr. Rumsfeld's Pentagon have never accepted the fact that the reality of Iraq did not fit their assumptions. The budget and the four-year plan released with it read almost as if the current conflict had never happened and could never happen again."

The budget priorities reveal Mr. Rumsfeld's utter disdain for our troops and an almost unbelievable disconnect from what is actually happening in Iraq. In his speech before the National Press Club on February 3, 2006, Secretary Rumsfeld reiterated his view of the war Americans now face, a war he calls a "generational war." This is the war both he and the President have variously described as the war on fascist Islamic fundamentalists; or against al Qaeda terrorists, or ideologues determined to replace our American values with the values of those who hate freedom and hate our way of life.

A very important point made by the Times editorial and the one I want to particularly emphasize is the complete disconnect between the Pentagon budget and spending plan set out and explained to the National Press Club on February 3, 2006, and what Mr. Rumsfeld is spending on in 2007. The President and Mr. Rumsfeld have told the Nation it will be fighting for the next 30 years or perhaps forever a long war against an army we can't see because it does not represent a nation state; it may not wear a uniform; it could be in any country at any time. But, as the Times points out: "Instead of reallocating resources toward the real threat America faces, the military services continue to pour their money into fighting fictive superpowers in the wild blue yonder and on and below the seven seas. Pentagon budgeters showed themselves so pathetically unable to restrain spending on expensive ships and planes that they actually cut back, rather than increased the overall size of the Army over the next few years to pay for it.

It would cost about \$4 billion to \$5 billion a year to give the Army 30,000 more troops, the minimum it needs to check its alarming slide. Instead the Pentagon chose to begin the construction of two unneeded new stealth destroyers, which will end up costing \$2 billion to \$3 billion each.

It also decided to splurge on a new nuclear attack submarine for \$2.6 billion and to shell out \$5.5 billion for separate Navy and Air Force versions of new stealth fighter jets, plus another \$5.5 billion for yet a third version that either can use. In all the Pentagon is asking for \$84 billion to buy weapons systems—twice what it got in 1996—and \$73 billion more for research and development.

This budget would be wasteful even under a worst-case assumption that had a second superpower arising within the life span of these weapons, turning hostile to America and arming itself to the teeth with the most advanced weapons. There's still unnecessary spending that could be used to repair the Army, which has been ground down at least as much by Pentagon miserliness as by Iraqi insurgents.

The citizens of this country, all of them care about the troops. Disagreeing with the President's policies or lack of them does not mean an American does not care about the troops. I would argue those questioning the President